

# BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2a  
February 2, 2012

## Meeting

RIDE

Thursday, January 5, 2012 - 4:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

**Attending:** George Caruolo (chairman), Colleen Callahan, Robert Carothers, Karin Forbes, Patrick Guida, Mat Santos, Betsy Shimberg

**Absent:** Lorne Adrain and Carolina Bernal

The meeting convened at 4:05 p.m.

Chairman Caruolo welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

### Acceptance of Agenda

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Callahan, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education accept the day's agenda.

Vote: 7 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follow:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

### Approval of Minutes

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Forbes, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approve the minutes of the

November 3, 2011 - Board of Regents Meeting

November 3, 2011 - Board of Regents Executive Session

Vote: 7members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Gist gave an update on the following:

#### **RTTT Early Learning Challenge**

Commissioner Gist shared how thrilled she was that, in December, the U.S. Department of Education awarded Rhode Island a Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant and that Rhode Island is only one of nine states to receive this grant, and one of only six states in the country to receive two Race to the Top grants.

She went on to say that the success of receiving this grant is a direct reflection of RIDE's partnership with our partners at DCYF, Health, Health & Human Services, Rhode Island Kids Count, particularly Elizabeth Burke-Bryant, and the Rhode Island Early Learning Council.

#### **RTTT Year 2, Quarter 1 Report**

She next shared a report updating the BOR on the status of RTTT implementation in Rhode Island.

This report covers Quarter One of our second year (September 1 - November 30, 2011).

#### **ESEA Flexibility Request**

RIDE has been working to develop a request that will give R.I. some additional flexibility around the No Child Left Behind Act.

There has been broad public outreach, which included public forums, and more targeted meetings with specific groups such as the teachers unions, R.I. School Superintendents Association, the Principals Association, and so forth.

Once RIDE has a draft completed in mid-January, it will make it publicly available so that Rhode Islanders can read it and give us more specific feedback.

The feedback being received by e-mail and at the forums is being documented and used to develop our proposal.

## **English Language Competency Regulations**

Last summer, the BOR approved the English Language Competency Regulations, and the Commissioner made a commitment that RIDE would give the BOR an update on its status in early January.

To date, Providence is the only district that has requested training. This training, which will prepare evaluators to do observations and make language-proficiency determinations, is scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Recovery High School**

As reported at the BOR November 19<sup>th</sup> Work Session, RIDE has received only one application and will be sharing a draft recommendation with the BOR at its January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting and requesting final approval at the February 2<sup>nd</sup> BOR meeting.

## **Public Remarks**

Chairman Caruolo requested that public remarks be kept to 3 minutes or less.

There was public comment from the following individuals:

Angel Taveras – Mayor of Providence, testified in favor of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Michael Solomon – President of the Providence City Council, spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Charles Lombardi – Mayor of North Providence, spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Colleen Jermain – Providence School Department, spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Marta Martinez – resident of Warwick, spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Steven Bloom – Cranston School Committee member, spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Scott Avedisian – Mayor of Warwick, spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Drew Carey – resident of Newport, spoke in opposition to Newport's space-allowance request.

Sabina Matos - Councilwoman from Providence, spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Jim Asbel - resident of Newport, spoke in opposition to Newport's space-allowance request.

Joi Danielle-Brown, spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Councilman Salvatore - spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Keith Oliveira - Rhode Nurses Institute, spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Arthur Corvese - State Representative from District 55, spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Delia Rodriguez - member of the community, spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Elizabeth Burke-Bryant -Director of Rhode Island Kids Count, spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Dan Corley - founder of Community Prep School, in Providence, spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Joe Almeida - State Representative, spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Nick Hemond - Providence School Board, spoke in support of the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Ed Benson - former college professor, spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Samuel Zurier - Providence resident and Providence City Council, spoke in partial opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Judith Webb, spoke in opposition to Newport's space-allowance request.

Daniel Wall - Providence teacher and Cranston resident, spoke, on behalf of Providence Teachers Union President, in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Veronika Kot - staff attorney with R.I. Legal Services, spoke on behalf of a number of youth organizations about their continued concerns with the High School Regulations, especially the use of state assessments as a graduation requirement.

Jack Ambrogio - Newport Superintendent, spoke in support of Newport's space-allowance request.

Jo-Eva Gaines - Newport School Committee, spoke in support of Newport's space-allowance request.

Lori Ferguson - Director, Coventry Career and Technical Center and Co-Chair of the R.I. Career and Technical Directors' Association, spoke in opposition to the CTE Regulations.

Dennis Littky - Director, MET School, spoke in opposition to some of the components of the CTE Regulations.

William McCaffrey - Director, Exeter-West Greenwich Career and Technical Center, spoke in opposition to the CTE Regulations.

Monica Teixeira de Sousa - Cranston resident and professor of education law, spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Richard Sonturri - spoke in opposition to the Achievement First Mayoral Academy application.

Brian Butler - Principal, Exeter West Greenwich High School, spoke in opposition to some of the components of the CTE Regulations.

Given that it was past 6:00 p.m. and there was still a substantial number of individuals signed up to speak, Chairman Caruolo suggested ending the meeting and pledged that those individuals would be the first in line to speak at the January 19<sup>th</sup> BOR meeting.

On a motion duly made by Regent Carothers and seconded by Regent Santos it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, C. Callahan, R. Carothers, K. Forbes, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

Vice-Chairman Guida had to leave the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.